

# **Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report**

**For the Week of January 16, 2017**

## **WALK-IN AREAS**

No reports this week from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek.

## **REGISTRATION AREA**

Hunters in the decoy only registration fields had some tough days with the colder temperatures and full moon phase last week; however the groups that were out were reporting back on getting a few birds per group. We have continued to work on getting more trails open and should have most of the trails open by the end of the week. The added snow and winds that seemed to change directions each day along with cold temperatures last week made it challenging to keep some areas open but hunters that were out during the week were able to get into several fields with some new trails that were opened up. The forecasted warmer temperatures and the moon phase going away from full in the area will hopefully get the birds moving a little earlier and have them flying around more. The decoy loaner trailers have continued to see a lot of use each week, hunters planning to make a trip out that need to reserve one of the trailers can click on one of the links to either the black or the white loaner trailer on the Lower Oahe Program page to reserve one or to check on availability.

## **PASS-SHOOTING AREAS**

No hunter reports from any of the pass shooting areas this week, with most of Lake Oahe freezing over the birds have moved into open water areas.

## **SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS**

The birds going out west of Ft. Pierre has continued. The striped green area west of Ft. Pierre continues to see groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having some success. Access into the fields remains tough though with some hunters using a snowmobile or UTV down the designated trails to get their decoys out or pulling a sled out into the field with decoys and setting up. The birds that have been flying East of Grey Goose Road through the solid and striped green areas have been hit and miss depending on the wind direction and speed.

## **SUMMARY**

Hunters have been reporting in with mixed success in most of the areas, with weather conditions playing a big role. Most of Lake Oahe froze over during the cold weather that moved through last week; there are some pockets of water in a few bays that the birds were able to keep an area open.

The women's goose hunt will be taking place in the Pierre area January 20, 21 and 22. For more information on openings for the event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223- 7667. This event has a limited number of participants they can handle, so pre-registration is required.